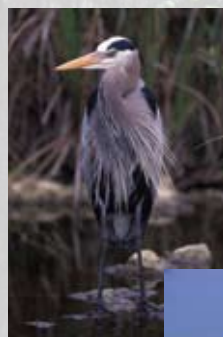


INSIDEerie

Your source for the latest news from
Erie National Wildlife Refuge

- Erie National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1959
- 8,800 acres of habitat
- Home to more than 230 bird species



Numerous bird species can be found at Erie NWR including
(clockwise from top left), **great blue herons**, **yellowlegs**,
snipe, and (at right) **northern flickers**.



INSIDEerie



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Erie National Wildlife Refuge

July 2008 Vol. 1 No. 1

INSIDEerie



Soaring to new heights, the **bald eagle** was removed
from the endangered species list in August of 2007.

Refuge Purpose Established

Art contests can be found all over the United States and throughout the world. However, only one is federally recognized and was created in the name of wildlife conservation, the Duck Stamp Art Contest. The Duck Stamp has a unique history and continues to be an amazing success story.

Back in the early 1900's migratory bird populations were being decimated by market hunters and a few overly ambitious sportsmen. These species, some of which became extinct, were on the brink of disaster. With the establishment of the first Federal wildlife refuge in 1903 and the passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1918,



the tides began to change. Migratory birds were no longer considered to have unlimited populations.
(story continued on page 3)

Erie National Wildlife Refuge
11296 Wood duck Ln
Guys Mills, PA 16327



Our Comprehensive Conservation Plan

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is preparing a long-term management plan for Erie National Wildlife Refuge in Northwestern Pennsylvania. Obtaining input from the public about refuge management is an important part of developing the comprehensive conservation plan (CCP).

Where We've Been...

We sent out an introductory newsletter, encouraged participation by providing four public forums and requested written public input from March 19 – April 30, 2008. The comments we received showed a diversity of thought and dealt with all facets of refuge management including wildlife and habitat management, agriculture, facilities, staffing, environmental education, outreach, public access, recreational opportunities, timber harvesting, oil drilling, and roadways just to name a few. Over 100 comments and one petition have been summarized, allowing us to understand the public's concerns, issues and ideas.

Where We're Going...

Our next step will be to meet with our state partners and review our draft vision in conjunction with developing draft goals. This will take some time as it incorporates the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service along with the establishing mission for Erie National Wildlife Refuge and a number of laws and guidelines that have evolved since the inception of the refuge system in 1903.



Becoming Involved

Please contact the refuge staff if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

In Person or by Mail:
11296 Wood Duck Lane
Guys Mills, PA 16327

By Phone:
814.789.3585

Via the Internet:
Email: fw5rw_ernwr@fws.gov
Website: www.fws.gov/northeast/erie

We continue to do outreach and updates in relation to the comprehensive conservation plan. Is there a question we can answer? What do you think of the newsletter? Seeking information about Erie National Wildlife Refuge? Let us know!

If you wish not to receive these newsletters, please let us know.



Refuge Purpose Established (cont.)

By 1929 it was apparent that the protection of migratory birds alone wouldn't suffice for the protection of their populations. Habitat continued to decline at an alarming pace due to the ever growing American population and development. That year, Congress passed the Migratory Bird Conservation Act which allowed for the acquisition of habitat, but a funding source for the acquisition still eluded them.

Erie NWR is home to over 230 different species of migratory birds.

A solution came in 1934 with the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, also commonly known as the "Duck Stamp Act". This Law requires all waterfowl hunters over the age of 16 to purchase a duck stamp. Revenue generated from the stamp sales goes directly back to wildlife conservation in the form of land acquisition for the National Wildlife Refuge System. To date, over 5.2 million acres of habitat have been provided for wildlife through this program.

Nearly 8,000 of the 8,800 acres of wildlife habitat, known as Erie National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) was purchased with duck stamp money for the purpose of "... use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose for migratory

birds." The Migratory Bird Conservation Act provided the refuge with its' mission and the "Duck Stamp Act" provided them with the funds. Erie NWR is home to over 230 different species of migratory birds including wading birds (e.g. great blue herons and egrets), shorebirds (e.g. sandpipers and yellowlegs), songbirds (e.g. black capped chickadees and scarlet tanagers) and of course raptors, home of America's national symbol the bald eagle. Of these species, almost half use the refuge not only as a migratory stop-over point but to nest and raise young.



Wood ducks (above) use both wetlands and forests.



Former maintenance worker, **Bob Granda**, painting a refuge sign in 1968.

What began as an avenue to fund land acquisition has turned into so much more. The duck stamp now brings together many different groups including waterfowl hunters, birders, and conservationists interested in wildlife conservation. Not wanting to exclude the nation's youth in the ongoing conservation efforts, the Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest was created 1989. It recognizes and encourages conservation efforts of our younger generation and supports environmental and conservation education programs. The sale of the original duck stamp goes to habitat conservation while the sale of the junior duck stamp goes to the education about habitat conservation, allowing the success of wildlife to continue.

How Did We Get Here?

1903



Theodore Roosevelt
1st National Wildlife Refuge established.

1929

Migratory Bird Conservation Act
Gives authority to purchase land for migratory birds.

1934

Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act
Provides a funding source to purchase land for migratory birds.

1959

Erie National Wildlife Refuge established.

1966

National Wildlife Refuge System Act
Creates guidelines for the administration and management of all areas in the system, including requiring activities on refuges be compatible.

1997

National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act

Clarified the mission and management priorities, created priority public uses, and requires that each refuge complete a comprehensive conservation plan.

Today

Erie National Wildlife Refuge staff are now working on the comprehensive conservation planning process.

